

The [State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#) is a national export initiative which makes matching-fund awards to states to assist small businesses in entering and expanding into international markets. Administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of International Trade, the program's objectives are to increase the number of U.S. small businesses that export and to increase the value of exports by small businesses.

ELIGIBILITY

For **exporters** only.

Be organized and incorporated in the U.S.

Be Registered in Rhode Island as a for-profit business.

Be Registered on [SAM.gov](#) to do business with the U.S. government

Meet the [SBA definition](#) of a small business.

Have been operating for at least 1 year.

Have 51% U.S. content.

START THE PROCESS

1. Complete both enrollment forms:

[SBA Self-Representation form](#)

[RI STEP Business P-144 TET@0.0000092 0 612 2 ref](#)